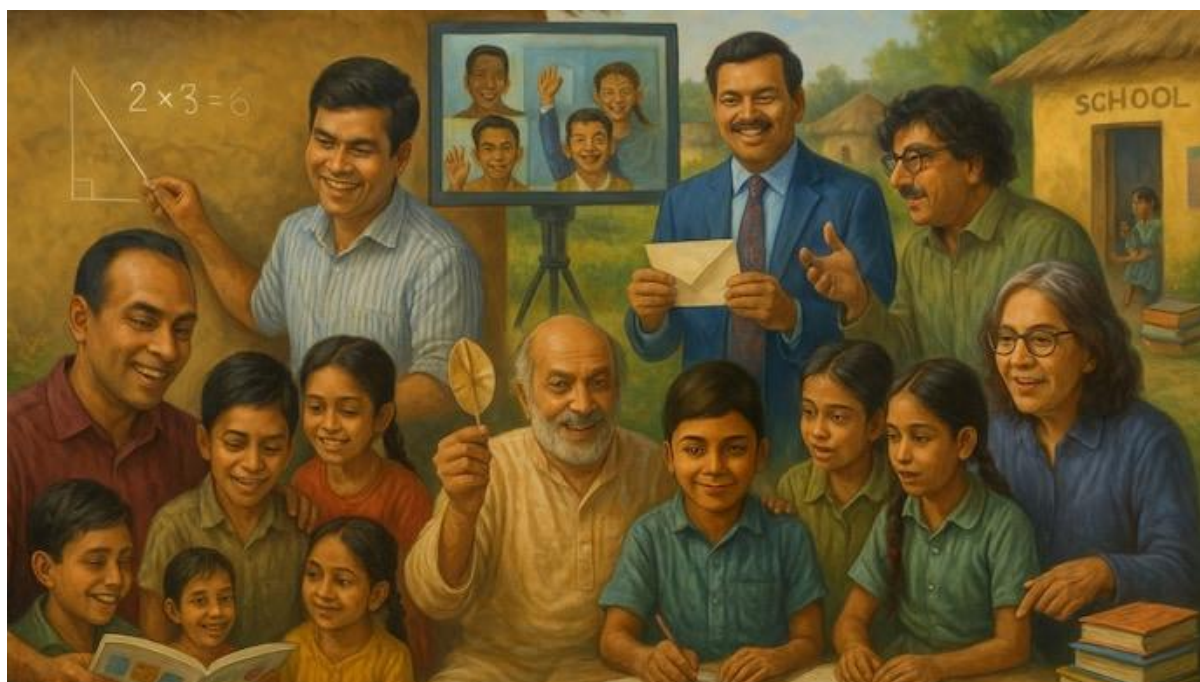


Meet 7 Indian teachers quietly changing the country's classrooms

Education is not just about exams or grades — it is the real measure of how our future will unfold. On Teacher's Day, here are seven Indian teachers who have transformed classrooms with simple yet powerful ideas -- from QR codes and wall blackboards to feminist pedagogy - - changing the lives of millions of students across villages and towns. They deserve to become household names.



Seven Indian teachers have transformed classrooms with simple yet powerful ideas—from QR codes and wall blackboards to feminist pedagogy—changing the lives of millions of students across villages and towns.



[India Today Education Desk](#)

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In India, the story of education is often written not in classrooms of elite schools, but in small villages, dusty towns, and forgotten corners of the country where there's barely enough resources. Here, teachers with grit and imagination are rewriting what learning can mean for children who have little else.

Education is not just about exams or grades — it is the real measure of how our future will unfold. And it is teachers like these, often working against odds, who are quietly leading the way.

These educators are going beyond just teaching—they are solving social problems, reimagining classrooms, and changing how children see themselves.

Their innovations have changed lives, broken barriers, and given children the one gift that can never be taken away — the power to learn. Their ideas have touched millions, yet many of them remain unsung heroes.

Here's a look at seven such Indian teachers who deserve to be household names:

1. RANJITSINH DISALE: QR CODES AND A MOVEMENT FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION



(Photo: Global Teacher Prize website)

Winner of the Global Teacher Prize 2020, Ranjitsinh Disale changed how rural Maharashtra looked at girls' education. By adding QR codes to textbooks and translating lessons into the mother tongue, he helped boost attendance to 100%.

His work even helped bring an end to child marriages in his village, showing how a single teacher can spark social change.

He even made history by sharing half of his 1 million USD prize money with the nine other finalists of the Global Teacher Prize 2020.

2. DEEP NARAYAN NAYAK: THE 'WALL TEACHER'



(Photo: Global Teacher Prize website)

When COVID-19 shut schools, Deep Narayan Nayak refused to let children fall behind. He turned mud walls in villages into blackboards, making entire neighbourhoods his classroom.

Known now as the “Wall Teacher,” he not only taught poor children but also guided parents, tackling deep-rooted social barriers along the way.

3. HARI KRISHNA PATACHARU: TAKING ENGLISH BEYOND BORDERS



(Photo: Global Teacher Prize website)

In rural Andhra Pradesh, Hari Krishna Patacharu reinvented how children learn English. He built immersive classrooms, created pen-pal programmes in 12 countries, and connected his students to a global teacher network.

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The result? Children who once struggled with language grew confident in communicating with the world.

4. PRADEEP NEGI: DIGITAL LEARNING IN THE HILLS

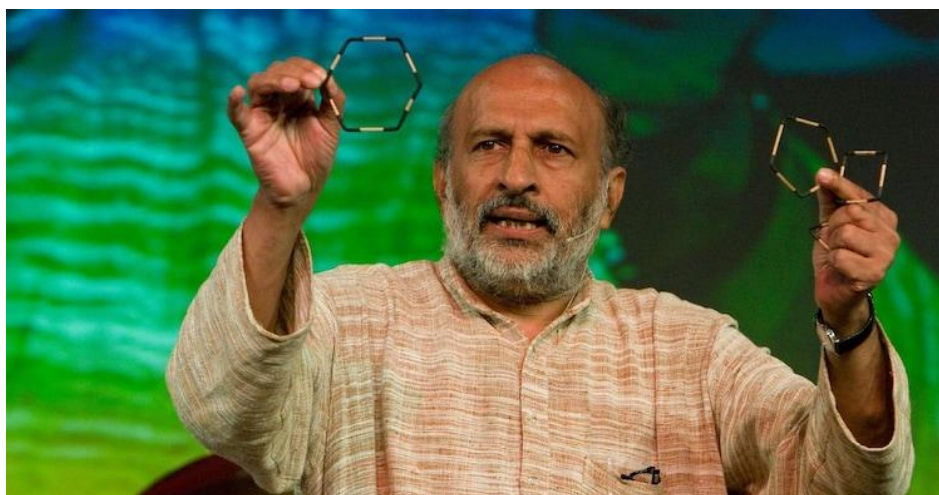


(Photo: Global Teacher Prize website)

Teaching in Uttarakhand government schools, Pradeep Negi didn't let his disability slow him down. Instead, he introduced digital learning to classrooms tucked away in the hills.

From projectors to WhatsApp lessons, he brought innovation to poor students' doorsteps and trained over 1,200 teachers along the way.

5. ARVIND GUPTA: SCIENCE WITH TOYS



(Photo: IIT Kanpur)

Padma Shri awardee Arvind Gupta showed that science could be taught without expensive labs. He built simple, low-cost science toys from everyday objects — spinning tops from old CDs, pumps from straws, and more.

His toys turned into teaching tools for millions of children, making science fun, hands-on, and unforgettable.

6. URVASHI SAHNI: GIRLS' EDUCATION AND CONFIDENCE



Through Study Hall, Urvashi Sahni pioneered a feminist approach to education.

She trained teachers, built curricula, and worked to ensure that girls from underprivileged backgrounds not only attended school but also found their voice.

Thousands of girls today walk taller because of her work.

7. SUGATA MITRA: THE 'HOLE IN THE WALL' EXPERIMENT



(Photo: Unesco MGIEP)

Sugata Mitra shocked the world with his ‘Hole in the Wall’ experiment, where children taught themselves using a shared computer installed in a Delhi slum wall.

His work proved that kids, if given access, could self-learn and adapt, reshaping global ideas of how education can work in underserved communities.

WHY THESE STORIES MATTER

India’s education story is often framed by exam scores, rankings, or government reports. But the real story lies in the work of these teachers.

From walls turned into classrooms to QR-coded textbooks, from toys that explain science to experiments that push the boundaries of learning. These educators prove that transformation doesn’t always come from big budgets or elite schools. It comes from creativity, courage, and the belief that every child deserves a chance.